यह सदन पर निर्भर करता है । लेकिन राजभाषा का अपमान और हिंदी का अपमान, यह राष्ट्र का अपमान है और मैं इसे अराष्ट्रीय कृत मानता हूं । जो लोग ऐसा काम करते हैं, वह राष्ट्र के विरुद्ध काम करते हैं ।

इसलिए इस सदन के माध्यम से, आपके द्वारा, मणिपुर के एजिटेटिड छात्रों से अनुरोध किया जाए कि वह अपना आंदोलन वापिस लें । राजभाषा और हिंदी का काम लोगों के दिलों के जोड़ने का काम है, तोड़ने का काम नहीं है । जोड़ने वाली भाषा के रूप में वह उसको अपनायें और इस तरह से अगर वह हिंदी का विरोध करते हैं, तो राष्ट्रीय कंपीटीशन में, राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में स्वयं पिछड़ जायेंगे । वह मणिपुर का भी नुकसान कर रहे हैं और मणिपुर भाषा को राष्ट्रीय भाषा का दर्जा दिया जाए, इसका मैं समर्थन करता हूं ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.A. BABY): Short Duration discussion to raise a discussion on the situation arising out of recent unprecedented floods in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry caused by a severe cyclonic storm. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: As per the listed business, clarifications first and then discussion. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I am on a point of information. This is a discussion about the recent unprecedented floods in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry. This is very important and I fully support it. (*Interruptions*) At the same time, I would like to suggest to the hon. House just to rise above Karnataka and come to Maharashtra because we are also having problems.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.A. BABY): What is the point? You please put it briefly.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Most parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat are having drought, very severe drought. So this should also be taken into consideration and the Minister also must... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.A. BABY): Your name is also listed here. You can mention when your chance comes. Regarding the clarifications, that may be taken up tomorrow. The Minister is here. He is prepared to give the clarifications. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: In the business listed today, clarifications is the first and then only comes the short-duration discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): But the point is, the short-duration discussion cannot be shunted towards the end of today's business.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: In that case, special mentions must have been taken up afterwards. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Clarifications can be taken up later. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Desaiji's point is well taken. But due to some unavoidable circumstances, this has happened. Now, Shri Narayanasamy.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION—ON THE SITUATION ARISING OUT OF RECEIPT UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS IN TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA, ANDHRA PRADESH AND PONDICHERRY CAUSED BY A SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the unprecedented floods in the southern parts of the country have played havoc in those areas. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, are we going to take up the clarifications tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Yes, (*Interruptions*). The BAC is meeting today. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Then, after Question Hour, it should be taken up;

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Immediately after Question Hour, it will be taken up.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the havoc caused by the floods in southern parts of the country and also in parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat, has been devastating. From 13th November to 15th November, 1991, there was a cyclonic storm and the cyclonic storm was moving towards the southern parts of Tamil Nadu, especially in the south Arcot district, Qaid-e-Milleth district and also parts of Pondicherry State, that is Karaikkal. (*Interruptions*). There was a direct effect of the cyclonic storm in Karaikkal region. The wind was blowing at 120 kms per hour and because of the cyclonic storm, there was a heavy rain in that area. Unexpected rain of 48 cms within a period of 24 hours was recorded in Karaikkal region. In Tamil Nadu, in Sirkazhi region, about 40 cms of rain was there in 24 hours. In other parts of the country, there were heavy rains, especially in Tenjur, Trichi district.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): You speak for Pondicherry. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): We should not confine ourselves to a particular region or area.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It further moved towards Karnataka and caused damage in the Kolar district of Karnataka. (*Interruptions*). The Nellore district in the state of Andhra Pradesh was also severely affected. The rain by that time was expected and the cyclonic storm was also expected during that period because it was monsoon period. But the havoc which the said cyclone has caused was not expected by the people of various States. Sir, in Karaikkal region alone, which is in Pondicherry State, 45,000 acres of land where paddy crops were fully rip for harvest, were completely inundated in water. You know the Cauvery dispute was pending but the people of our region would get water for raising *Kuruvai and Dhaldy* crops. But by the time the crop was ready for harvest, there was a cyclone. The farmers who were very happy that they will get benefit out of the water being received by them and they will get a very good harvest, were ultimately frustrated because the crops have been completely damaged. Karaikkal district in my State is a backward area. Forty thousand huts in the Harijan colonies and in the rural areas had been partially or fully damaged because of the cyclonic storm. On the 15th when the cyclonic weather subsided, the Chief Minister and the Education Minister of my State and I visited the area and the Local Administration Minister was stationed there. We had visited the affected areas and we had supervised relief works. We had made provision for relief works there. The authorities had been asked to provide rice and other facilities including clothes. In Tamil Nadu also the damage caused by the cyclonic storm was very, very extensive. In Tanjore district, which is called the paddy bowl of Tamil Nadu because it gives paddy to the people of the entire Tamil Nadu region, the paddy crop was completely damaged. A number of huts had been completely destroyed. The plants and gardens which were raised by the farmers in Tanjore and Tiruchi

districts were also damaged and destroyed. When the Chief Minister and I were returning, we found in the South Arcot district the water was flowing to a height of 7 feet on the main road of the State Highway and the entire area was completely inundated. The southern region was the most affected because the water that we received from the upper region had to reach our region. Our area was completely flooded. Our State Government had taken very prompt action and relief work was immediately started in the Karaikkal region. In Pondicherry which is adjacent to South Arcot the fishermen's hamlets had been washed away by the floods and also because of the high sea tide. In the rural areas the paddy crops had been damaged. In Pondicherry, and Karaikkal, forty-five thousand huts had been damaged. All of 45,000 acres of land had been completely inundated.

The peculiar situation is that Pondicherry being a Union Territory there is no calamity relief fund. It is only Home Minister who has to provide us the funds. We immediately approached the Prime Minister. We gave a representation to the Prime Minister and the hon. Prime Minister was pleased to sanction Rs. 1.60 crores immediately for the interim relief work in the State.

I would like to submit that our Congress President was pleased to appoint a committee from the Congress Party to visit the flood-affected areas of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Mr. Janardhan Poojary was the leader and I was one among the persons who accompanied the committee. We visited South Arcot, Karaikkal, Tanjore, Tiruchi districts of Tamil Nadu and also Pondicherry. We went to the streets. We visited the huts which had been completely damaged. We saw the plants that had been completely damaged by the storm and the people who have been living in the huts of Harijan colonies and in the rural areas and whose houses had been completely inundated had been housed in the schools and food was provided to them by the State Government. Sir, in Tamil Nadu, if I am permitted to say, huts numbering 2,62,287 had been damaged by the floods. But as far as the lands are concerned, one lakh sixty thousand acres of land have been completely inundated in water in Tamil Nadu. Therewere heavy damages to roads. There were breaches in tanks and canals which were supplying water. When we visited the areas we physically found that the paddy crops which were one month old and paddy crops which were about to be harvested had been submerged in water. People say that the crop that has been damaged cannot be used even as cattle feed. That was the sorry state of affairs. That might have been the situation in Nellore and Kolar districts.

Sir, under the Calamity Relief Fund the Central Government was pleased to allocate a certain amount. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the total amount allocated to the Calamity Relief Fund is Rs. 39 crores every year. Out of this three-fourths are from the Central Government and one-fourth is to be borne by the State Government. What I find is that Tamil Nadu Government has spent more than Rs. 4 crores on interim relief in one district alone, that is, Tiruchy district. The Central Government has given the norms for the purpose of giving relief to the victims of flood. They say that five kilograms of rice should be given only to fishermen and it should not be given to farmers, and one litre of kerosene should be given to the persons who are affected. For the people who are affected by the flood, who are living in the rural areas, they give only one kilogram or two kilograms of rice for the purpose of food; that too when they are affected by flood.

Sir, for the purpose of reconstruction of their huts, the Tamil Nadu Government was earlier giving Rs. 200 for repairing partially damaged huts and Rs. 400 for fully damaged huts from the Fund. Now, it has been increased to Rs. 250 for partially damaged huts and Rs. 500 for fully damaged huts. It is highly impossible for any person who has lost his hut to reconstruct his hut with that amount of Rs. 500 or Rs. 250. He cannot even purchase two poles or four poles for erecting a hut with a thatched roof. This amount is insufficient and the Government of Tamil Nadu ini-

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tially wanted Rs. 340 crores for the purpose of relief operations in Tamil Nadu. In our case, we have initially demanded Rs. 12 crores before assessing the damages. After full assessment our Chief. Minister demanded Rs. 24 crores for relief operations in flood-affected areas and for reconstructing the huts. It includes repair of roads, bridging the breaches in canals, repair of tanks and other things. The Prime Minister was pleased to give only Rs. 1.6 crores and the Tamil Nadu Government was given Rs. 29 crores by the Central Government for this year. That amount is not sufficient for meeting the demands.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): Sir, one minute. Government of India has already released Rs. 29.25 crores to CRF of Tamil Nadu. Advance payment of the fourth quarterly which was to be given in January 1992 was also released. The Tamil Nadu Government has reported to the Central team that a sum of Rs. 8.79 crores has already been spent on drought and flood in 1991 leaving a balance of Rs. 30.21 crores.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: That is what I said. I have already said that about Rs. 29 crores from the Central Fund have been transferred to the State. Now, the Tamil Nadu Government is demanding Rs. 390 crores. But you have given only Rs. 29 crores. Now they have sent the report. The hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhar, and our Minister of State for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, had visited the State. And the statement given by the Agriculture Minister will vouchsafe to the report of the State Government. The Agriculture Minister has clearly stated that the floods have caused a heavy damage to the crops. He has said it in a press interview and on the TV. It will take three to four months for the farmers to come to their normal life. Their huts have been completely damaged. This is what the Agriculture Minister himself has said. Therefore, the immediate need is to give relief to the farmers. The Government should give immediate relief to the farmers, to raise their huts. In the places we visited, the people have lost not only their houses; even their utensils, aluminium utensils and vessels, have been washed away by the floods. The people have been taking shelter in small schools. This is the sorry state of affairs in which the people find themselves. And the amount which is being provided as relief, Rs. 250 for a partly damaged house and Rs. 500 toa fully damaged house, is totally insufficient.

Another peculiar thing is the Central Government norm is to give a relief of Rs. 200 per hectare of agricultural land when the agricultural crops are damaged. When a farmer has lost a hectare-full of agricultural crop, how can he get any relief from a pittance of Rs. 200 for the damage in a hectare of agricultural land? It is humanly not possible. I give you a small instance. I visited a village in Tanjore District near Kumbakonam. A small farmer having one acre of land raised a plantain crop. The plantain crop was ready for harvesting in 15 to 20 days. But because of the cyclone the entire plantain garden was destroyed and the farmer could not get any yield out of it. He had taken a loan of Rs. 6,000 from the bank. Now he remains indebted and completely ruined. To that farmer the Government proposes to give Rs. 200 as relief! This is the miserable condition of the farmers there in the rural areas in the four regions, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and in parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The problem of agricultural labour is also becoming more and more serious. They have no income during the harvesting season. The insurance scheme for farmers has not been implemented there. The farmers say the scheme has not been implemented by the insurance companies. The insurance companies do not want to take the risk. The district authorities do not know anything about the insurance scheme. The insurance company officers also do not know anything about the scheme. When there was a meeting with the officers, the officers pleaded their

ignorance about the crop insurance scheme which was introduced by the Government in 1985. In some areas where the scheme was introduced, the district authorities have not paid the premium for two years. This is how the State is suffering for more than four years whenever there is drought. The concerned authorities did not think that there would be a havoc caused by floods. I, therefore, request that the Government should immediately take necessary steps for construction of houses for the people who have lost their houses. It is the duty of the Central Government and the State Government to protect the people and give shelter to them. In a particular place there was a big tamarind tree which was 30 to 40 years old. It crashed on the huts which were there on the roadside and the occupants of those huts narrowly escaped being crushed under the tree. Such is the pitiable condition of the people affected by the cyclonic storm. Therefore, the Central Government should come to the rescue of the State Government. I commend the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the immediate initiative taken by her. The Chief Minister immediately deputed her Ministers to the various affected districts. She herself personally went to the affected areas, slum areas, and supervised the relief operations there. The Government should release funds immediately for the construction and for the cultivation of land. The Government has to do it on priority basis. Money should also be given to the people who have lost their homes to buy utensils and clothes. The Central Government should instruct the insurance authorities to educate the farmers on the crop insurance scheme. As a long-term measure I would like to suggest a few things. The State Governments have virtually forgotten the flood control scheme. There is a Flood Control Minister in the State but he has failed to act judiciously. During the drought season, the canals should be desilted and that has not been done. They must do that. There is the 20-point programme of the Central Government under which they have the DRDA and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. These scheme have provided for desilting the tanks and canals. Canals have to be repaired and it should be seen that they are completed well before the rains start so that all the extra water and the flood water can easily be diverted into the sea and the people living in the low-lying areas are not affected. The Central Government should issue guidelines to the State Governments that they should not issue to the people areas which are low-lying areas. The State Governments should be instructed not to issue *pattas* in the low-lying areas. Because, when the *pattas* are issued, people build their huts there and when there is a flood or a cyclone these huts get washed away. The Central Government should immediately release funds to the State Government so that relief operations could be expedited. They should also provide funds for desilting the tanks and canals. There is another important thing which I would like to raise here and it is about the health care. Health care is no doubt a State subject, but the Central Government should be equally concerned about the health of the people. In the rural areas, people generally draw water from the wells. This well water is usually polluted and contaminated and that is how the people who drink this water contract diseases like cholera and malaria. The Government should take some preventive measures and for this purpose the Central Government should release funds. I visited certain colonies and I even advised the district authorities to use the medicines for killing germs especially in the Harijan bastis where there is heavy clogging of water. The Government should take such preventive measures and it should release funds to the State Governments for this purpose. The Agriculture Minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar is very much aware of the problems of the farming community. Even the Minister of State, Mr. Lenka knows about it and I hope they would release funds immediately. I thank the Agriculture Ministers for having immediately visited the flood-affected areas and assessed the havoc that was caused there. I thank them for it. But at the same time I would urge upon them not to cut the funds for this purpose by saying that there are financial constraints. They should release the whole amount,

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whatever has been demanded by the State Government. The team which was deputed by the Congress (I) President has also seen the sufferings of the people. Therefore, I would like the Central Government to act immediately and provide the funds to the State Governments. Karnataka wants a hundred crores of rupees. In the Kolar region, many areas have been affected and several huts have been damaged. In the Kolar district, for one year the entire area was flooded and the water could not be drained out. That was the situation there. They could not see the land portion at all! That was the sorry state of affairs in which the people found themselves there. I would request the honourable Minister to draw up a long-term plan for the purpose of draining out the flood waters which should be taken up by the Central Government with the support of the State Governments concerned. I would request the Minister to give immediate relief to the State Governments concerned for the purpose of undertaking the relief work in the affected areas. I am telling all this in pain and in anguish since I have seen the sufferings of the people in those regions.

With these words, Sir, I conclude.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I consider this as an important debate, important because it concerns more than one State, it concerns lakhs and lakhs of people. Never in the past have I seen such a devastation. Before I go into the specifics, may I, with your permission, Sir, make one general observation?

Sir, the Government of India and the State Governments in general have not been paying sufficient attention to disaster management. Disasters are caused by natural calamities like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, fires and so on. They occur intermittently and we have no device so far to forecast or predict their occurrence. So, the people are taken unawares and the Governments are taken unawares by such developments. Consequently, all of us suffer including the Governments. We wake up after the disaster and we have not created any adequate machinery to deal with such devastations caused by calamities. There are no competent staff, trained staff, technical staff, for managing such disasters. Therefore my first suggestion is that the Government should pay immediate attention to the creation of a competent and experienced machinery to deal with such situations.

Last year in Bombay, a huge havoc was caused by rains. Several people died, many buildings collapsed and various kinds of diseases spread. Women and children, more than others, suffered. But the kind of relief, the amount of relief was meagre and came too late. The same thing has happened this year. There was cyclone, storm and heavy rain which caused widespread damage to properties, public and private and to lives of thousands and thousands of people not only in one State like Tamil Nadu but in Karnataka, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and a part of Maharashtra also. And we depend upon the usual methods. The Central Government waits for the report of the State Governments. Perhaps, the Centre will send a team of officials. The demand of the State Government and the relief or the assistance given by the Centre will not be reconciled; there is a big gap. And whatever relief or assistance provided will fall short of the urgent requirements. Consequently, people suffer.

This time, Sir, the damage caused is widespread. Never was it so. Houses, particularly houses belonging to the vulnerable sections have collapsed. Along with the collapse of the houses, innocent people have died. Many public buildings have been damaged. Besides this, roads have been cut, tanks have been breached, bridges have been damaged. So, there has been a large scale devastation. And the Governments, both at the Centre and in the States, came to the rescue of these people too late when the people have gone through suffering and agony for long. This has happened in all the States, in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh,

Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Maharashtra. Particularly, it has affected farmers, labourers, children and women. Crops have been destroyed. The Karnataka Government—it is my information—has computed the losses, and they seem to have sent a report to the Centre. They have demanded at least Rs. 100 crores of assistance immediately. My friend, Mr. Narayanasamy, was quoting the figures for Tamil Nadu. Likewise, the Minister must have got demands from Andhra and Maharashtra also. It is natural. I know the financial position of the Centre is not so strong to meet fully the demands of the States. But there should be an effort to meet the demand half-way. That is also not being done.

[(P. Thakur) in the Chair]

The Vice-Chairman Prof. Chandresh Relief given in time will be appre ciated, will be effective. And that has not been done. Much of the relief operations are wasted because of delay, because of the inefficient way the things are managed by the official machinery. Sir, I suggest that the Centre should immediately announce, adequate amount of assistance to all these States without any reservations. The sufferings of the people should receive the highest priority and any amount of assistance in this matter should be welcomed. With all the constraints the Government of India is having, I for one will really appreciate if the Government is not lukewarm in this matter but provide quick relief.

Secondly, I have been pleading in the past, that the norms of relief have to be changed. They have become outmoded. I do not want to go into all the details. As a matter of fact I have dealt with them in the past in detail. I made an observation that the norms for relief which have been drawn up should be revised. The most important element while giving relief is the extent of suffering that is caused to the people by devastation, by disaster. That should be the main criterion. But I wish that the norms should be changed. The immediate problem is one of food and shelter for the weaker sections. While giving relief, all attention should be paid and priority should be for these poor vulnerable people.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Bhaskar Annaji Masodkar) in the Chair]

They should be attended to. I don't know whether any computation has been made in respect of these people. If they have got the figures, very good; if they don't have, I think the Government should tell the State Government to identify the poorer sections. They should get relief much earlier than others. So, I would like them to see that the weaker, poor, deprived and the most vulnerable sections of the community get the relief.

Sir, finally, there has got to be an integrated approach — another way of saying that there has got to be disaster management — to tackle all the problems like havoc caused by flood, disaster caused by cyclone or earthquake or fire. So, there should be an integrated approach. There should be a proper machinery for hat. There should be a continuous permanent monitoring machinery to see that relief operations which are taken up are effective so that the people who are affected get relief as expeditiously as possible. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, natural calamities have been discussed in this House several times but stark answer comes from the Government that they are working under the norms recommended by the Finance Commission. Already an amount of Rs. 47 crores has been allocated by the Finance Commission which has been distributed to the States. I fail to understand how calamities can know the limit fixed by the Finance Commission and control themselves. This is very surprising. Cutting the coat according to the cloth can be understood but here calamities are not in anybody's control. But our Government is working under certain parameters. I agree, parameters must be there; expectations may be there. But when there is a devastating flood, when there is a severe calamity, you insist on norms and want to restrict on

[Shri H. Hanumanthappa]

allocation. As Mr. Narayanasamy was speaking, the hon. Minister reacted and said: This is what we have earmarked for Tamil Nadu—Rs. 29 crores or Rs. 30 crores out of it. And then it is not a grant; this is to be adjusted against the allocated funds for calamity relief to Tamil Nadu. Similarly, there is an allocation of Rs. 27 crores to Karnataka. That is only an allocation which will be reimbursed by the Government of India as a readymade allocation for such calamities to enable the State Government to rush to the spot immediately. I certainly appreciate it. But whether you should restrict it, is the problem. I only stress upon the Government that in cases of such vast calamity, it should work out the norms depending upon the extent of the calamity and the devastation that has taken place and the suffering of the people. This is what I want to impress upon the Government. I am pleading this case because here is one instance where my State Government has given details and made a demand. In the months of July-August, there were heavy rains, unprecedented rains, and there was a loss of about Rs. 44 crores. But I am surprised to find that the Government of India has rejected this request. I do not know under what authority can the Government of India reject this request. A State Government assesses the damage, prepares a statement, and brings it up before you. But just because it is not able to restrict its demand to the amount allocated, just because it is no within the limit of Rs. 847 crores that the Finance Commission allocated, or Rs. 27 crores that you have placed at the disposal of the State Government, or just because it does not fit into the norms, you can reject this request! It pains me very much. This is not a proper attitude. If the request is not in the proper form, you can ask them to fill up the proper form. If it is not in accordance with the required system, you can ask them to do it accordingly. But if the request itself is rejected, what would happen to the people? It is not the Government which will suffer; ultimately it is the people who are the sufferers. Benefits should reach the people. The State Government gave you the statements and in the first para itself they say that our request is for Rs. 44 crores with regard to damages. Then the amount was raised to Rs. 50 crores. Anyway, I am not going into the details. There are other friends from Karnataka who will give you details. But here I am on a limited issue as to how these things can be treated by the Central Government.

There had been loss of 49 lives and 2200 cattle; 1,30,000 houses were destroyed. Rainfall was to the extent of 125 cm. to 427 cm. in a span of 48 to 72 hours. When such a calamity had taken place, the Government of India is dealing within its norms and within the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Has this Finance Commission anticipated this earthquake in Uttarkashi? We cannot get the allocation from the Planning Commission in anticipation of this. I do not blame the Finance Commission also. Some provision would have to be made in the funds. But it is not a hard and fast rule and it is not a Lakshman Rekha that you cannot cross. Considering the amount of suffering and the extent of devastation, the Government of India should come out of this 'Lakshman Rekha' policy for the benefit of the people who are suffering. It is this attitude and the keeness to help which goes a long way rather than what you do in the normal times. When a man is in distress, the Government has to rise above its norms, above its normal practice and functioning and come to his rescue. I request the Government to stop talking about the norms. I support what Mr. Gurupadaswamy said. I know fully well the limitations of the Finance Commission and the limitations of the Government of India. But these limitations should be relaxed now as it is a matter of the lives and sufferings of the human beings. Sir, without going into the further details — I don't want to read out the figures which can be got from the Government — my only stress is that the Government of India should rethink as to how to tackle this disaster and calamity and how to reach the people who are suffering. Even

Gandhiji has said that God should present himself in the form of bread to a man who is hungry. That man does not want to recognise God but would like to be presented with bread. This is the case of the people who are the sufferers. In such cases, you will have to rise above your norms and don't go just by your rule-book, I stress this here. It has been the practice and the bureaucratic approach to go through the earlier files to see how much money had been sanctioned in such cases and what was the precedent etc. without even considering about the devaluation of the rupee. So let us not go by these norms or the precedents. I appeal to the Government to help the needy on humanitarian considerations. If the norms require to be changed, please change them in the interests of the people and come before the Parliament. If you are doing things in the interests of the people, here are the people's representatives who would certainly acknowledge and support such things.

Thank you.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the devastation has been very great due to heavy rains and floods. But relief is not forthcoming immediately in order to help the people who are in distress. The Central Government as well as the State Government are not responding so quickly.

As friends from other States have spoken about the calamity in respect of their States, I will confine myself to Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately, Andhra Pradesh has been facing this calamity almost every year. Being on the coastline, we are very much affected by depressions and cyclones. Last year, there was large-scale destruction of crops and property. It happened in May last year. Then, in May-June, this year, there were rains and floods. Seven districts were affected. Afterwards, there were no rains. The Monsoon failed. As a result of this, fourteen districts were affected by drought. Again unusually, in November, there were heavy rains. Crops and houses were destroyed and there was considerable loss of life. The number of persons who lost their lives is more than 200. About five lakh hectares of cultivated land have been destroyed. The paddy is discoloured. Eight districts have been affected; all the coastal districts and the districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah.

The total loss, as estimated by the State Government, comes to Rs. 430 crores. Crops worth Rs. 249 crores were lost. Thirty-four thousand houses have been completely destroyed. More than a lakh houses have been partially damaged. Particularly, the handloom weavers, who are already suffering, who are already facing starvation, have been put to further distress because of the heavy rains. Thousands of looms were drowned in the water. This has added to their misery.

As I said, according to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the total loss comes to Rs. 430 crores. I do not know what will be the assessment of the Central Government more, or, less. Anyhow, it is always a conservative estimate. Therefore, this estimate—Rs. 430 crores—does not reflect the actual suffering of the people. Taking into consideration all these things, immediate help is required. But it has not been rendered. I am sorry to say. We are breaking so many records. The man-made calamities are there. Record rigging, record deceities, record kidnappings and others were there. We have seen all these things in Andhra Pradesh, during the elections. Similarly, record-breaking calamities have occurred. Being on the coast line, we are repeatedly punished by nature.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: God wants to punish you. You are not positive.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: I am positive. But you too had to take a negative attitude when you spoke on this matter. This also cannot be forgotten.

5.00 P.M.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: You don't believe in God.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: As you have stated, they are not coming forward with all the help required. The prime Minister, who came there, he visited the Nandyal constituency from where he was elected, but it is very unfortunate that he could not spare a day to see the devastated flood areas of Andhra Pradesh. Also he did not visit any place where starvation deaths had taken place. For instance, in my own place, in one village 14 starvation deaths had been reported. I remember, how in May, 1990...

SHRI K. C. LENKA: The Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh. He had a discussion with an official team there at Hyderabad on 23rd November.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): What my colleague says, that the Prime Minister did not visit the affected areas. In 1989 when cyclone hit Andhra Pradesh, Shri V. P. Singh visited twice, but the Prime Minister, who happens to be from our State, did not visit even once the affected areas. Discussion with officials is another thing.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: He also said that the hon. Agriculture Minister, Mr. Jakhar, would visit the affected areas, but all these things are not enough. I am glad that he could visit the earth quake affected areas in U. P. Coming from the same State, he should have visited this affected area also. Even though coming from the North, Shri V. P. Singh came twice when such a devastation took place last year, but our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narsimha Rao, who comes from the same State, failed to visit the affected areas. You have to show some human consideration also. It is not enough to say that our Agriculture Minister would look after everything, our officials would do everything. I am sorry to make such a remark, but this is troubling the minds of Andhra Pradesh people.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sorry for interruption. Actually in a meeting we brought to the notice of the Prime Minister to visit these affected areas. On that day when we discussed the matter with the Prime Minister, he said that he had not been in a position to reach some of the areas. He told me that helicopters had been mobilised from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Although he had not been able to visit the affected areas, he said, let the help reach them, then I will also go and visit those areas. Now you cannot say that he was not interested in visiting those places. He said that it was no use just making an aerial survey. When the people are suffering...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: The Prime Minister could go to his constituency and stay there for two days, but he did not get time to go and see....

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: It is not the visit that is important, it is the help that should reach the people. Help has to reach the people.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: The Prime Minister immediately released Rs. 30 lakh. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: It is the bounden duty of the Centre to give assistance when such a calamity takes place. You are mentioning this as if you are giving in charity.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Another point is, on August 6 in Tsunduru 8 Harijans were killed, murdered by the upper-caste people, and coming from the same State our Prime Minister had no time during these two months to visit that place too. Even on humanitarian grounds he could have made it a point to visit this place just to satisfy the people of that place.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are politicising issue.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: It is not we, it is you who are politicising. You are not able to understand the agony of the people of Andhra.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): People like us sacrificed our seat... (*Interruptions*)...We

are proud of him; we are proud of a man like him,... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: We are proud of a man like him, but such kind of a man could not find time to visit a place where 250 people died due to the annual clamity.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): And you are trying to politicise it... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: We are not trying to politicise it.

SNRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: How many times has Mr. Rama Rao has gone around.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Don't try to defend it. Rama Rao or some other Rao is a different story.... (*Interruptions*) ... He has gone there and he is still there.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Why do you bring in Rama Rao here? The people of Andhra expected that the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, would at least go and visit the people who were affected ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Prime Minister's good intentions or whatever intentions... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been touring extensively in Andhra.

... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please, you are getting your turn.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: May be they do not want their Chief Minister, but how can they expect the Prime Minister to go every district in India... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): He is not yielding. Please sit down.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: I am expressing my own sentiments as well as the people's sentiments... (*Interruptions*)....

Renukaji, please sit down ... (*Interruptions*)... Oh! You are yielding to her and not to Mrs. Natarajan.

... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H HANUMANTHAPA: He is yielding to a nearer lady!

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, we are not questioning the correctness or incorrectness of the Prime Minister visiting his home State. What we are bringing to the attention of the House and of the nation is that it is the sensibility that has been violated. If the Prime Minister had not gone at all, it is a different matter. But for a man to go on a victory rally to thank his voters and not go elsewhere in the State, are the other people of the State less important in his view that they need not be thanked? ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You are going to speak on this... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I don't want to incite the Members of his party, but they are not the only people responsible for his victory. We played a very big role in it and we will continue to play a role of responsibility in Andhra Pradesh... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please please.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Is the honourable Member aware ...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is a matter of shame.

... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, just on a point of information, in front of me the Prime Minister told the Agriculture Minister to go immediately to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and carry the Central team to visit those States to see the affected areas ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Pleased don't curse us; we are already cursed by nature... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, it happened in front of me. It is not possible for the Prime Minister to go to each and every corner of Andhra. But he has instructed the Agriculture Minister ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: You have allowed every one, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You are getting your chance.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: You have allowed Mr. Jadhav also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): The speaker is not yielding. ... (*Interruptions*)... Mr. Rao, why don't you yield for a minute and let her have her say?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, surely it is a matter of simple logic that he is not elected to the Rajya Sabha. He is elected to the Lok Sabha and so he could not be elected from the whole of Andhra Pradesh and he cannot go and thank all the people of Andhra Pradesh. He can only thank the people of Nandyal. If this simple logic escapes there people, only God can help them.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO. Where from he is elected is not the point at all. As Prime Minister of the country he had certain responsibilities. ...(*Interruptions*). ..

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is our party and other alliance parties who had allowed him the victory ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: If he is elected from one State, even if he is elected from Maharashtra, the duty of the Prime Minister is that the people affected by the cyclone should be visited by him....(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Now nothing will go on record ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please sit down.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

SHRI M. M. JACOB:*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Nothing has gone on record.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Nothing is going on record, with reference to both sides. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): It is not going on record.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY:*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): No, nothing is going on record.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Now we proceed.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please sit down.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Let them stand by what I plead for none. On behalf of the Congress Government in the State I am pleading with the Central Government which is also a Congress (I) Government. So, the point is that we require much help from the Centre. Rs. 86-crore Calamity Relief Fund was there, out of which Rs. 16 crores has been taken away by the Central Government. Rs. 70 crores remained, out of which Rs. 40 crores has already been spent for other calamities like the earlier calamity in May, June, again for drough

*Not recorded.

affected areas and all these things. Only Rs. 30 crores remains there. According to the Chief Minister of the State, he is asking for Rs. 80-crores aid from the Central Government. This should be immediately rendered. I am also reminding them that Mr. V. P. Singh had immediately given cash relief of Rs. 94 crores. So, let them also respond like that. Now we plead on behalf of the people of the State and the State Government also that the Centre should immediately render some help so that the agitation there is called off. Because the relief has been very inadequate, there has been so much of agitation. Only the other day 10,000 people in Nellore demonstrated, asking for rice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir, I would like to say....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Let him conclude.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: One thing. The Centre's share of Rs. 49 crores has already been released and on the 21st of November the fourth quarterly instalment of the Government of India has already been released which is due to be paid in January. Rs. 49,21,00,000, the Central Government has fully released, and over and above that, the fourth quarterly instalment which is to be paid in January, was also released on the 21st of November.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: We would have been very happy if the hon. Minister would have made a statement before us when this important subject is being discussed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): He will respond to it.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: All right. Anyway, the Chief Minister did not tell me that. He requires Rs. 80-crores help from the Central Government. That is what he says.

The point here is that the relief rendered up till now has been very meagre, and that too some discrimination is also being done there. All these complaints are there. We know how corruption prevails when such calamities take place. The fact is that even the relief that was granted earlier for the earlier calamities even till today has not been cleared. So many people could not receive it at all. That thing is happening there.

So, seeing all these things, all-party advisory committees should be there at all levels in order to monitor or see that the aid given is properly given. The standing crops are damaged. They are discoloured. According to normal procurement norms, the Food Corporation of India would not be coming forward to purchase them. So the norms have to be relaxed and more purchasing centres have to be opened. The State Government has suggested opening of sixty purchasing centres in order to purchase that paddy. Some Members have spoken about crop insurance scheme. The prevailing crop insurance scheme is very inadequate, very defective. It has to be corrected. It has to be popularised so that in such calamities some money in the form of insurance can be helpful to them. Ftr construction of houses, adequate funds have not been provided. Nowadays it is very difficult to construct a house because the cost of raw materials has gone up steeply. With the help of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2,000, they cannot construct a house. So these things also should be considered by the Government immediately. Loans should be provided to the farmers whose standing crops have been damaged so that on a large scale they can put up short-term crop; otherwise they would not be able to compensate their losses. In order to do it, they require loans. This facility should be rendered to them liberally. That is the point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please complete. Your time is already over.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: This is a big calamity which is affecting so many districts. So naturally the Central Government should attend to these problems immediately. I hope whatever the State Government has asked for up till now will be granted immediately to render help to the cyclone and flood of Tamil Nadu...